

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01 COME-00

INT-05 FEAE-00 NSF-01 DLOS-04 OFA-01 L-03 DODE-00

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN,SV,PLOS,NO

SUBJECT: EIGHTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

REFS: (A) STATE 145094

(B) OSLO 2543

1. RECOMMENDATION VII-14 OF THE EIGHTH ANTARCTIC
TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING READS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT:

THE REPRESENTATIVES, RECALLING RECOMMENDATION VII-6; BEARING
IN MIND THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY;
REAFFIRMING THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL MAN-
KIND THAT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA SHALL CONTINUE FOR-
EVER TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND
SHALL NOT BECOME THE SCENE OR OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL
DISCORD;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PLACES A
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY UPON THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO EXERT APPROPRIATE EFFORTS,CONSISTENT WITH THE CHARTER

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OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE ENGAGES

IN ANY ACTIVITY IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA CONTRARY
TO THE PURPOSES OR PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY;
CONCERNED THAT MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND
EXPLOITATION COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE ANTARCTIC AND OF OTHER ECOSYSTEMS DEPENDENT ON
THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT;
NOTING THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAR
MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION;
CONVINCED THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTIONS
CONCERNING ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES ARE DESIRABLE AND
IN THE MEANTIME, OF THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT WHILE SEEKING
TIMELY AGREED SOLUTIONS BY THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES TO
PROBLEMS RAISED BY SUCH QUESTIONS; AND NOTING THE INTEN-
TION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO KEEP THESE MATTERS UNDER
REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY OTHERS.
AWARE THAT AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND/OR
EXPLOITATION IN THE ANTARCTIC HAS BEEN INADEQUATELY
STUDIED AND THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES BEAR A SPECIAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE
ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA;
AWARE ALSO THAT ANTARCTIC GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES HAVE
NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INVESTIGATED;
RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY AND CON-
SIDERATION OF THESE MATTERS;

RESOLVED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES SHOULD SEEK
TO DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY
THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES IN
THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA, BEARING IN MIND THE PRINCIPLES
AND PURPOSES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY;

RECOMMEND TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT:
1. THE SUBJECT "ANTARCTIC RESOURCES--THE
QUESTION OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION"
BE FULLY STUDIED IN ALL ITS ASPECTS IN RELATION
TO THE TREATY AND BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION
AMONG THEM WITH A VIEW TO CONVENING A SPECIAL
PREPARATORY MEETING DURING 1976 THE TERMS OF
REFERENCE OF WHICH WILL BE DETERMINED PRECISELY
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THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, THE SPECIAL
PREPARATORY MEETING TO REPORT TO THE NINTH
CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

2. THE UNDERTAKE TO STUDY THE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPLICATIONS OF MINERAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES IN
THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA AND OTHER RELATED
MATTERS, INCLUDING JOINT STUDIES AMONG THEM,

AND THAT THEY EXCHANGE THE RESULTS OF SUCH STUDIES;

3. THEY INVITE SCAR THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEES TO:

(I) MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION OF THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE TREATY AREA AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS DEPENDENT ON THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT IF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION WERE TO OCCUR THERE. IF POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE, GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO ASSIST THEIR NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEES IN THIS UNDERTAKING BY APPROPRIATE MEANS;

(II) CONTINUE TO COORDINATE NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA WITH THE AIM OF OBTAINING FUNDAMENTAL SCIENTIFIC DATA ON THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ANTARCTIC;

(III) CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS ARE NECESSARY IN PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTIVES;

4. THE SUBJECT "ANTARCTIC RESOURCES--THE QUESTION OF MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION." BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE NINTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING. END TEXT

2. REPORT OF THE MEETING INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

BEGIN TEXT

THE MEETING NOTED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THE EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING URGE STATES AND PERSONS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS OF COMMERCIAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION WHILE, ACTING AS CONSULTATIVE PARTIES, THEY SEEK TIMELY AGREED SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA. THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO NOTED THE INTENTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO KEEP THE QUESTION UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY OTHERS. END TEXT

3. RELEVANT CHANGES CLEARED WITH DEPARTMENT BY TELCON PRIOR TO USDEL AGREEMENT.

4. REGARDING PRESS COVERAGE, DEL PREFERS LOW PROFILE. BYRNE

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